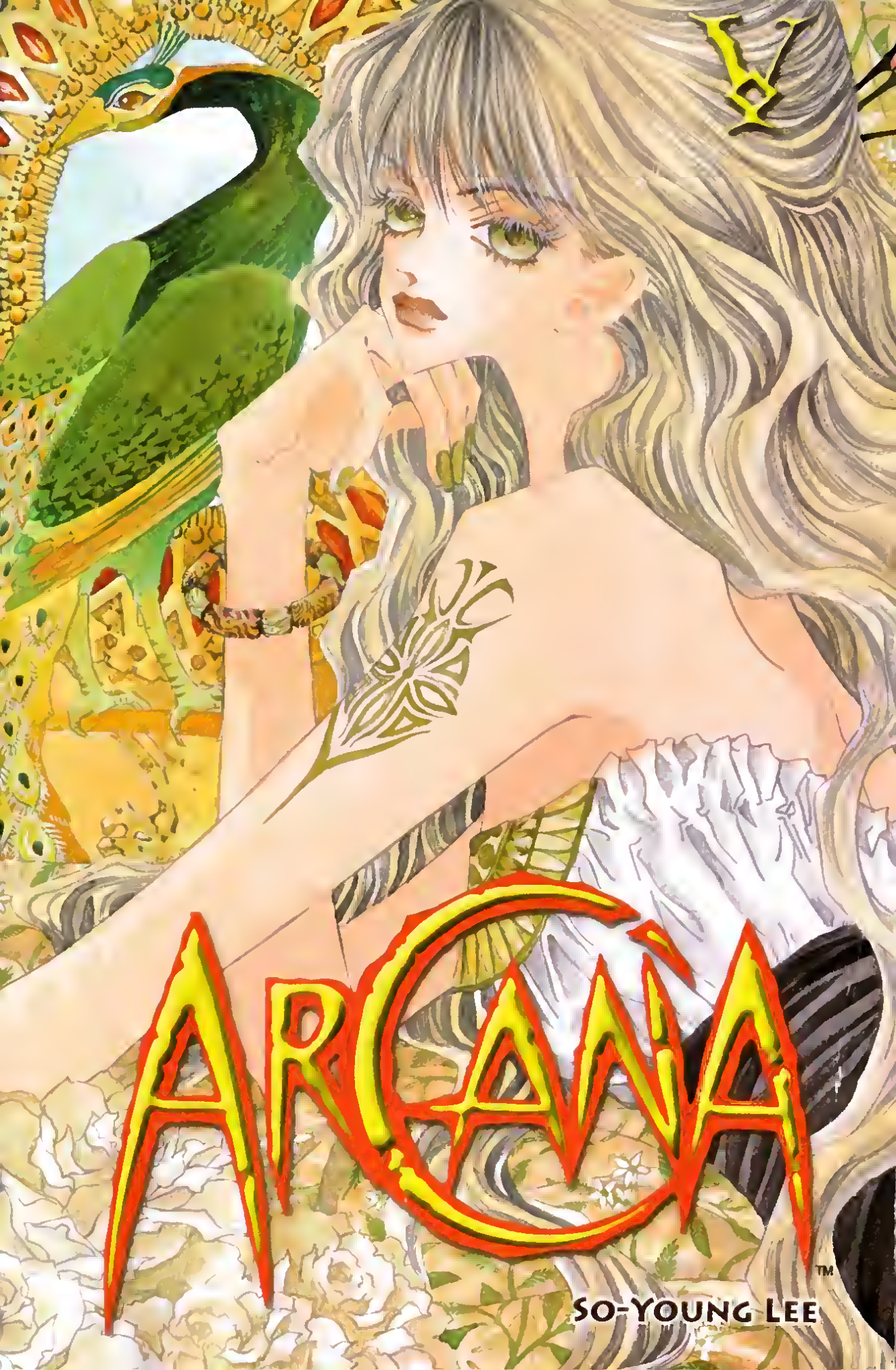
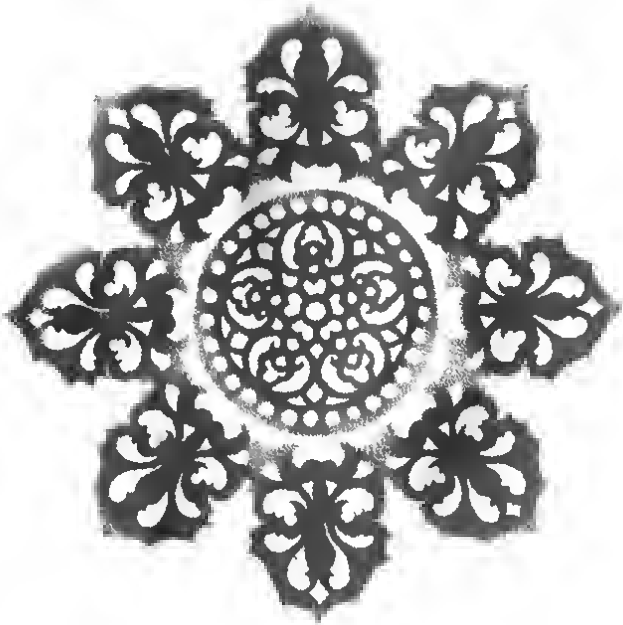

V
ARCANA
SO-YOUNG LEE

The Journey Thus Far...

As the group continues their dangerous mission to locate the guardian dragon that will protect Inez's homeland, even more secrets are uncovered. It seems that Yulan has a history with the being residing within Inez, known as "The One," and it is a conflicted history at that. The mysterious Kyrette desires the dragon essence Inez carries for his own, as of yet undisclosed, purposes. And Inez begins to question whether or not she should be entrusted with such a crucial assignment...

ARCANA



EPISODE 7 CITY OF ECSTASY 48

EPISODE 8 HIDDEN HEARTS 152

THE WAR OF BLACK BLOOD...
...IS NOT OVER...

HA HA... THAT TICKLES!
OH, IT REALLY TICKL--

GET OUT.
WHAT?
I'VE LOST INTEREST. SOMETHING URGENT HAS COME UP.
AN UNINVITED GUEST HAS JUST ARRIVED.

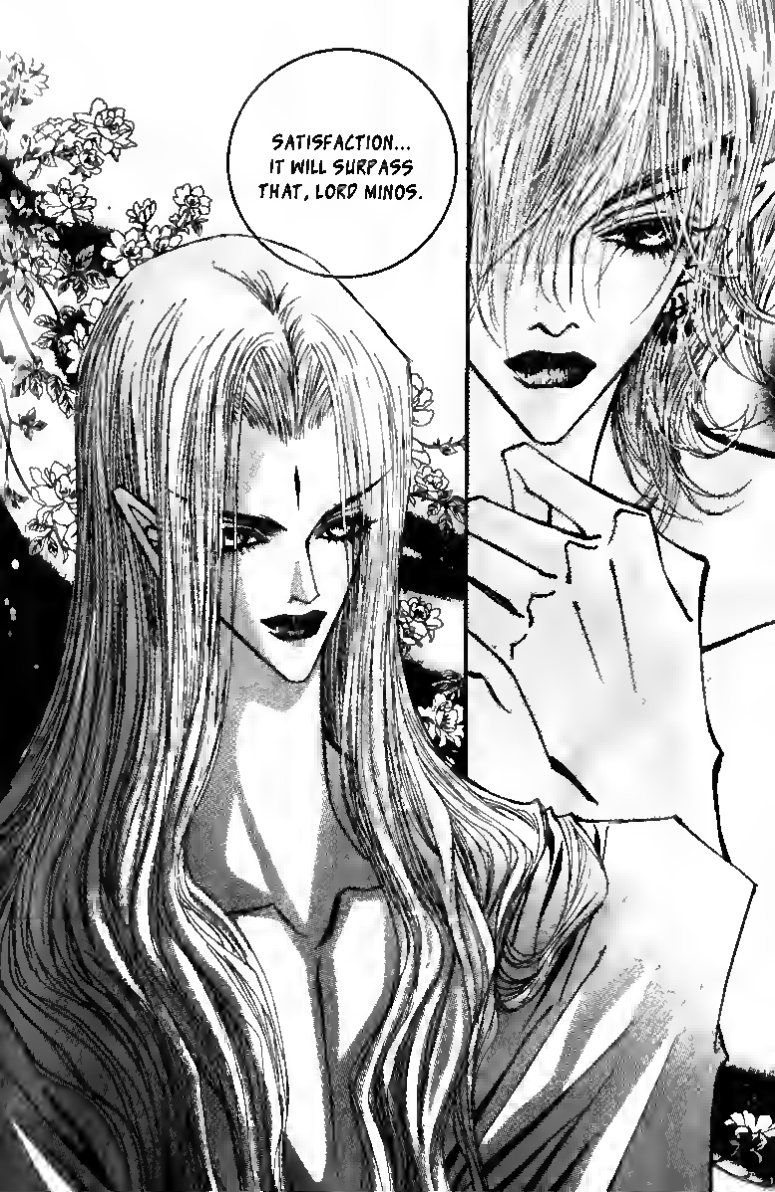
I DIDN'T KNOW I'D BE SEEING YOU HERE

THEY SAY SURPRISE ADDS DRAMA TO THE ENCOUNTER.
YOU CAME HERE, KNOWING THAT I'M HERE?
IF THAT'S TRUE, I FEEL A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU DON'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT A MOTIVE
YES, IT WAS ABOUT 300 YEARS AGO WHEN WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER, WASN'T IT?
MY ADORABLE EZEKIEL.

YOU HAVE BECOME EVEN YOUNGER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL, LORD MINOS

HA-IF THOSE WORDS WERE SPOKEN BY ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU..
I'D HAVE HIS BODY TORN INTO PIECES AND TOSSED IT INTO A PEN OF BEASTS, SO THAT EVEN HIS SOUL WOULD PERISH.
BUT IT FEELS GOOD HEARING IT FROM YOU, EZEKIEL
ULTERIOR MOTIVE OR NOT, I CAN'T WAIT TO BE WITH YOU

SO, TELL ME SINCE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME HAPPINESS, I SHALL RETURN THAT JOY TO YOU
WHY HAVE YOU COME TO SEE ME?
SOON, PRECIOUS GUESTS WILL BE ARRIVING.
HA, COULD THERE REALLY BE ANYONE MORE PRECIOUS TO ME THAN YOU, EZEKIEL?
WELL, IF HE SATISFIES ME JUST AS MUCH AS YOU, HE'S VERY WELCOME


SATISFACTION... IT WILL SURPASS THAT, LORD MINOS.

MOMO!
MOMO!
MOMO!

I'M OKAY, MONG I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
ACTUALLY, I WAS IN SUCH SHOCK THAT I WANTED TO GIVE UP
BUT I THINK THAT IN THE END, IT ONLY MADE ME REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS JOURNEY IS TO ME
TO BE HONEST, I'M SCARED... BUT MY NEED TO KNOW HAS GOTTEN STRONGER THAN MY FEAR
I KNOW THE HEART'S BLOOD PENDANT IS NOT A SIMPLE KEEPSAKE. BUT WHAT SECRET DOES THIS LITTLE PIECE OF JEWELRY HOLD?
I FEEL IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LINK TO THE DRAGON.
SO... SINCE I'VE GOT TO KNOW, I CAN'T GIVE UP THIS QUEST.

AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... YULAN MAY BE RIGHT...
MONG, I FEEL LIKE I'VE DRAGGED YOU ALONG ON A VERY DANGEROUS JOURNEY. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSIDERATE
IF I HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEND YOU HOME, I'LL DO IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, THIS TIME
EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE. ONCE WE GET OUT OF THE LAND OF THE ELVES...
...OUR JOURNEY WILL BECOME EVEN MORE TREACHEROUS.
I CAN'T PUT YOU IN THAT KIND OF DANGER.

DESPITE HER SMALL STATURE, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE GREAT INNER STRENGTH TO COME TO THIS LAND WEARING THAT TREASURE
WELL, ANYWAYS, I SHOULD GIVE HER MY OWN SPECIAL WELCOME TO ELE-LAND HA-
WHAT, ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT LITTLE CHILD WILL SATISFY ME?
I STEPPED ONTO THIS WORTHLESS LAND BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF WAITING, BUT SEEMS LIKE I'VE ONLY WASTED MY TIME
BUT, I MUST ADMIT, THAT NECKLACE SHE WEARS IS NOT SOMETHING TO IGNORE.

EZEKIEL, WAS THAT NECKLACE THE REASON YOU WERE AWAY FROM THE LAND OF ELVES?
I COMMEND YOU ON DISCOVERING A SECRET THAT ONLY THE ELF ELDERS WOULD KNOW
WHEN WE GET BACK, WHY DON'T YOU SHARE MORE STORIES FROM YOUR JOURNEY
WHAT TO DO, MONG? I THINK WE'RE LOST WE'VE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES
YULAN MUST BE WORRIED I SHOULDN'T HAVE INSISTED ON GETTING THE WATER MYSELF
OUCH!

OH, MY WATER--!!
I'VE SPILLED IT ALL. I CAN'T EVEN GO BACK TO THE RIVER, BECAUSE I'M LOST.
AND WHAT'S WORSE, MY STOMACH'S GROWLING.
꼬르륵~
EVEN IF I FIND YULAN, WE STILL NEED WATER TO MAKE FOOD. I'M SO PATHETIC.
I WAS LOOKING SO FORWARD TO YULAN'S DELICIOUS SOUP--!!
HUH? THAT SOUND...

I THOUGHT THAT SOUNDED LIKE A WELL!
EXCUSE ME... CAN I GET SOME WATER TOO?
OH, FOR ME? THANK YOU.
...!! NOW WE CAN MAKE SOUP!

GULP
GULP
WOW-IT'S SO COOL AND SWEET I THINK IT TASTES BETTER THAN THE WATER FROM THE RIVER
OH, YES! CAN I ASK YOU WHERE TO FIND THE BIG ROCK
WhOOsh
WOW, SHE DISAPPEARED SO FAST BACK TO SQUARE ONE
Uuuugh..

I'M SLIPPING...
CAN'T THINK...

splash
splash
NO...WAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?! MY BODY HAS CHANGED AGAIN!!

YES, I LOOK DIFFERENT, BUT I'M STILL INEZ. DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A STRANGER!
WANT TO KNOW WHY THIS HAPPENED TO ME, YULAN? ME, TOO! EVEN MORE!
AND ONE MORE THING. SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT
SO DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE I'M A MONSTER!

I DON'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES THAT FIT ME NOW.
HA, SHE'S GROWING MUCH FASTER THAN I EXPECTED AT THIS RATE, WHEN SHE GETS HERE...
...I'M DRAWN TO THE GIRL?
...SHE'LL HAVE CHANGED INTO A BODY THAT IS WORTHY OF MY COMPANY
WHY IS IT THAT EVEN MORE SO THAN TO WHAT'S AROUND HER NECK
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST AN AVERAGE-LOOKING HUMAN CHILD, BUT THE MORE I LOOK AT HER...
...I FEEL THAT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HER.

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE HEART'S BLOOD? I FEEL A VIBRANT ENERGY RADIATING FROM HER.
AND AS YOU KNOW, EZEKIEL, I HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRONG. HAH.
HURRY, HUMAN CHILD WHO HAS CAUSED MY HEART TO BEAT FASTER.
QUICKLY SO THAT MY HANDS CAN ACTUALLY TOUCH YOUR PERFECTLY TRANSFORMED BODY.

UGH... OKAY, SO WE'VE RESOLVED THE CLOTHES ISSUE BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS HAIR?
I CAN'T GET USED TO THE LENGTH! NOT TO MENTION THIS BODY!
CLOTHES YULAN GOT FOR HER FROM THE VILLAGE
HAIR THIS LONG SHOULD BE BRAIDED IN SECTIONS THAT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO MOVE AROUND

OH...
R-REALLY?
Sssh
EH?
THUMP
THUMP
W-WHAT!
THUMP

M-MY NECK FEELS SO HOT! EVERY TIME YULAN'S FINGERS BRUSH AGAINST MY SKIN...
I SHIVER!
SO... THIS IS NOT AN ABNORMAL SENSATION.
I ASSUMED KYRETTE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE ME FEEL THAT WAY, BUT I FEEL THE SAME THING FROM YULAN...
OH!
ALTHOUGH I FEEL MORE...
...EMBARRASSED

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE'S ONLY BRAIDING MY HAIR, SO WHY DO I FEEL SO UNCOMFORTABLE?
AND MY HEART KEEPS BEATING SO FAST!
thump
THIS FEELING...
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY NEW BODY?
TO BE HONEST, I NOTICED YULAN MORE AFTER MY TRANSFORMATION
I'M JUST SO VERY AWARE OF HIS HANDS... AND I CAN'T MOVE AT ALL BECAUSE I'M SO NERVOUS!
IT'S STRANGE. SOMETHING'S CHANGING ME.
thump
BUT WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS...
thump

...HOW YULAN JUST SO CALMLY ACCEPTS THE CHANGE.
T-THANKS, YULAN—IT FEELS MUCH BETTER.
WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME TODAY WE MUST ENTER THE SECOND GATE BEFORE DARK, SO BE READY
SECOND GATE?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT. WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THREE GATES IN ORDER TO REACH THE LAND OF THE ELVES
YULAN, I WON'T HAVE TO DIVE INTO ICKY WATER FOR THIS SECOND GATE TOO, RIGHT?
AM I RIGHT... YULAN?

STAIRS?! I HATE STAIRS!!
ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NO OTHER WAY?
JUST HOW MANY STEPS ARE THERE?!

YES! I CAN DO IT!
NO STAIRS CAN STOP ME
erik
OWWWW...

IT HURTS! I THINK I SPRAINED MY ANKLE.
AND WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY.
I'M SO PATHETIC!
THINK. NOT EVERYTHING YOU SEE HERE IS REAL.
HM?
ELVES NATURALLY DETEST PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SO THEY WOULDN'T MAKE A STAIRWAY THAT WOULD TIRE THEIR LEGS
WHAT?
ONLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELVES, THOSE WITHOUT TRUTH-SEEING EYES, SUFFER

AH!
IF YOU SEE THE STAIRWAY THROUGH HUMAN EYES, THE STEPS GO ON ENDLESSLY
Y-YULAN!
I SUSPECT IT IS STILL TOO MUCH TO ASK OF YOU BUT REMEMBER THIS
...EYES THAT CANNOT SEE TRUTH WILL ONLY HINDER OUR JOURNEY
THIS DIFFICULTY IS ONLY SEEN THROUGH YOUR EYES, NOT MINE REMEMBER THAT
EYES? WHAT EYES..
WHICH MEANS THAT IT IS UP TO YOU TO SEE THE REALITY BEHIND THE ENDLESS STAIRCASE

BUT WITH THE EYES YOU HAVE NOW, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
LOOK BEFORE YOU NOT AS YOU SEE IT, BUT—
THE REALITY OF THE "STAIRWAY OF TRUE SIGHT" AS SEEN THROUGH MY EYES
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

DID YULAN USE MAGIC? SOMETHING THAT TRANSPORTED US THROUGH SPACE...?
WE'RE ALREADY AT THE TOP!
W-WHAT'S WITH THIS STUBBY LITTLE THING?!

blink
blink
IT WAS THEN THAT I REALIZED THAT SOMETIMES, TRUTH IS POINTLESS
WHAT?! I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT PAIN FOR NOTHING!
MY POOR LEGS!
EYES THAT CAN SEE TRUTH? IN MY CURRENT STATE...
ALL I COULD THINK WAS THAT IT WOULD BE VERY CONVENIENT. THAT POWER WOULD MAKE EVERYTHING EASIER.
YOU MEAN WE COULD HAVE LOOKED AT IT THROUGH YOUR EYES FROM THE BEGINNING? WHY?! WHY DID YOU MAKE ME GO THROUGH ALL THAT?!
I HATE YOU, YULAN!!
AND...

YULAN REALLY DOESN'T LIKE ME...
HOW ELSE COULD HE DO THIS TO ME?! WAAH-!
click
SO THAT IS THE "STAIRWAY OF TRUE SIGHT"?
YES, GATEWAY TO THE CITY OF ECSTASY, WHERE ONLY PURE-BRED ELVES LIVE.

CITY OF ECSTASY, HUH? THAT'S PRETTY STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. I CAN JUST ENVISION HOW THAT PLACE LOOKS
LAND OF SORROW, CITY OF ECSTASY. GIVEN HOW THOSE NAMES REFLECT THEIR SENSE OF SUPREMACY OVER NON-ELVES, I CAN TELL HOW ELITIST THESE ELVES ARE
SO ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO CLIMB UP THOSE STAIRS THROUGH IRON STRENGTH OF WILL?
NO. THAT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION
A TRICK?
I WILL SHOW YOU THE STAIRWAY OF TRUE SIGHT THROUGH MY EYES. YOU WON'T NEED AS MUCH IRON WILL AS YOU THINK.

OH...
THE CITY OF ECSTASY, WHERE MOST OF THE ELVES LIVE.

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Episode 7
City of Ecstasy

IF YOU... WANT MY HEART!!
...PLEASE-AWAKEN.
PLEASE REMEMBER THE MEMORIES YOU SHARED WITH ME FIRST.

GYAAUGH!
MEWC!
N-NO WAY.
EVEN, EVEN ..
...EVEN IF THIS IS A DREAM, THIS SHOULDN'T HAPPEN!!
H- HOW COULD I...WITH YULAN?!

I'M TURNING VERY WEIRD!

AMAZING ALL THE ELVES HERE ARE GLAMOROUS AND BEAUTIFUL, LIKE ARIEL OR REANA FROM EAST GARDEN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS SORT OF RACE EXISTS.
IT'S STILL THE SAME ELF-LAND BUT IT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM THE LAND OF SORROWS.

FFFF
NO NEED FOR YOU TO FLAUNT THE HEART'S BLOOD AROUND
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAND OF SORROWS, BE ON GUARD.
YULAN... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY HAIR?
IT'S NOT AS NEAT AS WHEN YOU DID IT, BUT NOT TOO BAD, HUH?
I SPENT AN HOUR ON THIS. TO BE HONEST, GRANDPA SHOULD HAVE SEEN ME TODAY...
HE WOULD NEVER IMAGINE THIS IN A MILLION YEARS, RIGHT, YULAN?

HA
YULAN, I'VE BEEN THINKING.
YOU FIND THESE CONVERSATIONS BORING.. RIGHT? POINTLESS CHATTER YOU KNOW.
DID YOU NOTICE? ALL OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN ABOUT EITHER THE HEART'S BLOOD OR THE JOURNEY.
WELL, TO YOU IT'S ONLY NATURAL, BUT... I SUDDENLY FEEL SAD.

I FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING THE CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW YOU...
휙
MY EVERY THOUGHT...
OH!
I REALLY HAVE BECOME STRANGE
...IS FOCUSED ON YULAN...

tat
THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU COME UP HERE AND RETURN IT TO ME?

YOU MAKE ME SICK.
YU-
YULAN!!

neiiigh
neiiigh

YULAN-!
I-ON

...THERE IT WAS.
YULAN WAS ALWAYS TALKING TO ME
ONLY IT WASN'T— WITH WORDS.
YULAN WAS TALKING TO ME IN HIS OWN WAY

LOOK HERE.
MY HORSE WAS SPOOKED BY MERE HUMANS?
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU LOWLY CREATURES TRESPASSED ONTO ELF LANDS BUT YOU'VE INTERRUPTED ME?
YULAN WASN'T THE ONE WHO WAS STUPID IT WAS ME.
YULAN, ARE YOU STUPID? HOW COULD YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR THAT! FOR THAT--
I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT
TAT

OH... WHAT'S THIS? NOW THAT I LOOK, I SEE YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN ..
..BUT A HALF-ELF
EEDA: A SHAWL
A HALF-ELF WHO DARES TO WALK THE STREETS WITHOUT AN EEDA?
WHAT?
THAT ALONE IS A GRAVE SIN.

HALF...ELF?

S-SLAVE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN ELF SOCIETY, HALF-ELVES ARE TREATED AS SLAVES
NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
I KNEW YULAN WASN'T HUMAN BUT... A HALF-ELF?
A SLAVE...
NO WAY! IT'S NOT TRUE
TAK
LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU MORE CLEARLY
BOW DOWN YOUR HEAD, SLAVE!

RIGHT, THERE'S NO NEED TO REPLY TO HIS NONSENSE
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANYMORE. DO YOU HEAR ME? LET'S GO
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YULAN?!
I DON'T NEED TO STAY IN THIS STUCK-UP PLACE
YULAN!
WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE LIKE A MUTE?! TALK TO HIM!
TELL HIM IT'S NOT TRUE!

NO.
NO.
slump
HE CAN'T...
YULAN!

YU...
LAN?
UNGH!
YOU DARE--?!
I DON'T BELONG TO YOU. SO I HAVE NO REASON TO BOW TO YOU.
I ONLY FOLLOW MY MISTRESS ORDERS

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FRUIT THAT LASTS FOREVER?
THEY'RE HEADING TO ELOAM JUST TO GET THAT?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID THAT THE JOURNEY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HEART'S BLOOD. THAT THEY'RE ONLY TRYING TO GET THE FRUIT
ALL FOR THIS ANIMAL CALLED A NYAMA.
I DON'T BUY IT THEY CHOSE THIS DANGEROUS A JOURNEY JUST TO GET FRUIT?
IT MAY BE AN EASY JOURNEY UP TO THE SECOND GATE BUT TO CROSS THE VALLEY OF DAGDA. WHICH IS THE THIRD GATE
BESIDES THAT, YOU CAN GET THE EVERLASTING FRUIT RIGHT THERE IN THE CITY OF ECSTASY.
WHAT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ELOAM
WAIT, ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YULAN DOESN'T KNOW THIS?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE HE MUST KNOW
DOES IT MEAN HE HAS OTHER REASONS?
THE FRUIT IS ONLY A COVER, HE HAS A DIFFERENT MOTIVE BEHIND IT?

AS A HALF-ELF, OF COURSE HE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE EVERLASTING FRUIT IS AVAILABLE HERE AS WELL
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW? THAT MAN NAMED YULAN WE SAW BY THE CLIFF HE'S A HALF-ELF
HE HAS A DIFFERENT AURA THAN REGULAR HALF-ELVES
BUT I'M CERTAIN HE HAS ELF BLOOD FLOWING IN HIS VEINS

NO
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
THIS CAN'T HAPPEN!

EZEKIEL..
EZEKIEL, YOU
HOW DARE-?
HA, FINALLY
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE
ALL RIGHT. I DON'T LIKE BEING INDEBTED TO YOU. SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOVE.
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO ENTER THE SCENE

I WILL MAKE SURE TO LET HER KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING...
...YULAN.
FOOLISH MINOS. I KNEW THAT WITH YOUR CURRENT LIMITED CAPACITY, YOU'D TRY TO TOUCH IT.
YOU PROBABLY WANT THE HEART'S BLOOD MORE THAN ANYONE.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE FRIGHTENING THAN LOSING YOUR IMMORTALITY.
DON'T TOUCH ME!

DON'T TOUCH MY BODY!
YOU LOWLY HUMAN!
WHAT'S HAPPENING...?

SO, YOU HAVE BECOME EVEN YOUNGER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL, MIGHTY MINOS
EZEKIEL, YOU--!
OH! I FORGOT. YOU DON'T LIKE TO HEAR THAT YOU RE GETTING YOUNGER.
TO YOU, GETTING YOUNGER MEANS YOU'RE GETTING CLOSER TO DEATH.

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
THIS LIGHT, CHILD, WILL LEAD TO WHERE YOUR COMPANION IS.
HE WILL BE DESPERATELY WAITING FOR YOU.
IT'S THE ELF I MET IN EAST GARDEN!
HOW DID HE RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS FORM?
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU THAT GREED WOULD LEAD YOU TO YOUR DOWNFALL?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO I AM, EZEKIEL?
UNTIE ME AT ONCE!!
DOESN'T THIS SCENE SEEM FAMILIAR TO YOU, MINOS? MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN USING THE TIME MAGICS FOR TOO LONG
BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER
JUST KNOW THAT YOU'RE PAYING FOR YOUR GREED AND OBSESSION WITH YOUTH
PLAYING THE PRICE FOR DESTROYING YOUR IMMORTALITY TO ENJOY ETERNAL YOUTH
ALTHOUGH, FROM THE LOOKS OF YOU, YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH YOUTH

MEANING YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN SHORTENED BY THAT MUCH
TIME MAGIC IS PART BLACK MAGIC. IT HAS INDEED TARNISHED YOUR PURITY
AN ELF THAT LOSES PURITY ALSO LOSES IMMORTALITY
ARE YOU NOW TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF DEATH?
AND EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARS WITHOUT A TRACE
WHY ELSE DID YOU TOUCH THE HEART'S BLOOD?
YOU MUST REALIZE IT'S TOO LATE TO PURIFY A BODY SO SOAKED IN BLACK MAGIC

YOU'VE ALSO FORGOTTEN THAT THE DRAGON DOES NOT SHARE ITS POWER OF RENEWAL SO EASILY
NOT ONLY THAT, IT JUST MADE THE TIME MAGIC FLOW FASTER.
YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS BEFORE I SUPPOSE YOUR NEW YOUTH HAS MADE YOU LOSE YOUR OLD WISDOM.
AND IT HAS ALSO MADE YOU POWERLESS SO POWERLESS THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN UNTIE THE ROPE YOURSELF
EZEKIEL!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
YOU USED THE HEART'S BLOOD PENDANT AS BAIT!
DO YOU REALLY NOT REMEMBER, MINOS?
OUR POSITIONS HAVE SWITCHED, BUT WE'RE IN THE SAME SITUATION WE WERE THAT TIME LONG AGO

OH, SUCH A CRUEL MOUTH.
WE NOBLE ELVES MUST NOT SPEAK LIKE THAT.
REALLY... YOU ARE TOO BEAUTIFUL, MINOS.
THE DIRTY DEEDS THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO SATISFY YOUR GREED—
NO!
GO AWAY!
GET LOST!

NO!
YOU WILL NEVER REMEMBER, MINOS.
ONCE HIGH ELDER MINOS.

BUT NOT NOW YOU'VE BEEN STRIPPED OF YOUR TITLE BECAUSE OF YOUR USE OF BLACK MAGIC
MORE'S THE PITY THAT EVERY TIME YOU USE THE MAGIC, IT ROBBES YOU OF YOUR POWER AND YOUR MEMORY. EVEN THE FACT THAT YOU WERE A HIGH ELDER IS LOST TO YOU.
WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY TOMORROW, AND YOU WILL GREET ME JUST LIKE BEFORE WHEN YOU SEE ME AGAIN.
CALLING ME YOUR BEAUTIFUL EZEKIEL...

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. I DIDN'T USE THE HEART'S BLOOD'S POWER FOR MY PERSONAL REVENGE...
IT IS A POWER NOT TO BE WIELDED LIGHTLY.
EVEN IF I COULD ESCAPE DEATH, THE HEART'S BLOOD ESSENCE IS SO STRONG THAT IT WOULD ABSORB EVERY BIT OF POWER I COULD GATHER.
WHICH MEANS

.. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE THE HEART OF A DRAGON UNLESS YOU'RE CHOSEN.

YOUR LOOK BEFITS YOUR CURRENT STATE. JUST A COMMON LADY...

YULAN?
YOU MUST BE AWAKENED.
WHAT?
THIS JOURNEY CANNOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT YOUR AWAKENING.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HIDE WITHIN YOURSELF? I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

I WILL NO LONGER ACCOMPANY YOU UNTIL YOU ARE AWAKENED.
YU...LAN?

OUR NEXT DESTINATION IS ELOAM EVERLASTING FRUIT IS ONLY A COVER.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YULAN?
YOU MUST BE AWAKENED BEFORE REACHING ELOAM, MY MISTRESS.

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ARCANA

sniff
sniff
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO I LOST MY MOTHER'S BRACELET.
IT WAS THE ONLY THING SHE LEFT TO ME.
MOTHER WILL BE VERY SAD IF SHE FINDS OUT I LOST IT.
OH! I CAN ASK GRANDPA TO FIND IT FOR ME. THERE'S NOTHING GRANDPA CAN'T DO
HE'S THE BEST WIZARD!

GRANDPA!
GRANDPA!
OH...
GRANDPA, YOU REALLY ARE THE BEST WIZARD! HOW DID YOU KNOW I LOST THE BRACELET?

I THOUGHT I HAD LOST IT FOREVER WHEN I DROPPED IT IN THE RIVER
I REALLY THOUGHT I HAD LOST IT—
DON'T YOU MEAN THAT YOU FORGOT IT AND LEFT IT BY THE RIVERBED?
NO, I DROPPED IT IN THE RIVER BECAUSE I WASN'T BEING CAREFUL

...ARE YOU READY?
10d
PERFORM THE BINDING RITUAL

A PROTECTIVE ENERGY FIELD?
THE ENERGY FIELD IS ALL AROUND THE WIZARD'S HOUSE.
WHY?
!
THIS FIELD WAS NOT MADE BY KAAGER. I CAN'T GET THROUGH.

THEN WHO?
WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE THAT HOUSE?

피아

TAP
....I ONLY HOPE HE...
...UNDERSTANDS WHY I'M DOING THIS...

I SEE YOU'RE UNABLE TO GET IN THERE EITHER.
I'M SURPRISED, ZEYER. YOU, WHO WOULD NEVER LEAVE HER SIDE...
IT'S QUITE AMUSING TO SEE YOUR FACE AFTER BEING DISCARDED
AREN'T WE BOTH IN THE SAME SITUATION?
AT LEAST I'M TRUTHFUL AS TO HOW I FEEL, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, YULAN?
ALWAYS FOLLOWING HER BUT NEVER SHOWING YOUR FACE

CAN'T YOU SEE WHY THIS ENERGY FIELD WAS CREATED?
IF IT WAS ME THEY WANTED TO STOP, THEY DIDN'T NEED SUCH A POWERFUL BARRIER.
IT MEANS SOMETHING YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO KNOW IS HAPPENING INSIDE

. . .
. I ONLY HOPE HE UNDERSTANDS WHY I'M DOING THIS...
슬쩍
WHO DO YOU MEAN BY "HE"... DO YOU MEAN ZEYER OR...
...DO YOU MEAN YULAN?
WHOEVER IT IS, YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE IS SOMEONE YOU ARE SO EAGER TO AVOID MEETING AS YOUR AWAKENED SELF THAT YOU WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO PERFORM THE BINDING RITUAL?

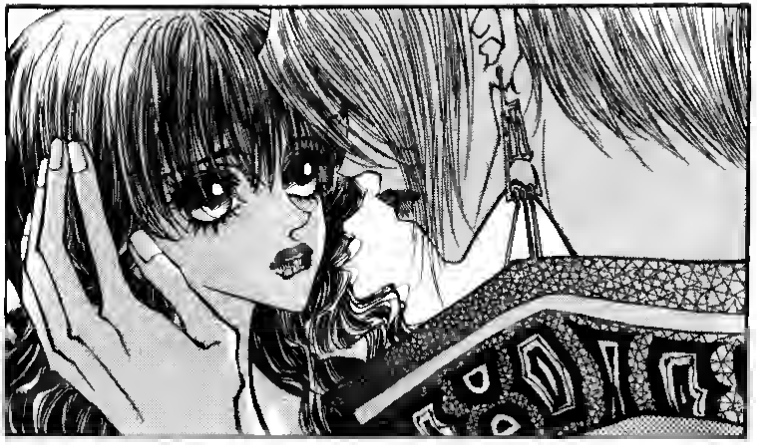
tap tap
tap tap
STOP, YULAN!
TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HAVE YOU SUDDENLY BECOME MUTE?!
WHAT AWAKENING? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OUCH!
꽉

DRONG!
WHAT WAS HAPPENING INSIDE THE ENERGY FIELD?
...THAT DAY.
WAS THERE SOME SECRET THAT YOU HAD TO KEEP BY FORCING ME TO STAY OUTSIDE?
YU...YULAN?
YOU HAD AWAKENED THAT DAY LONG AGO, YOU HAD ALREADY AWAKENED.
THAT ENERGY FIELD, IT WASN'T KAAGER, SO WHO ELSE COULD HAVE MADE IT?

IF YOU WERE AWAKENED AT THAT TIME, YOU COULD HAVE PERFORMED THE BINDING RITUAL.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RETURN TO AN UNAWAKENED STATE.
WHY? WHY HAVE YOU HIDDEN YOURSELF AWAY?
WHY DID YOU WANT TO STAY A YOUNG, POWERLESS INEZ?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD HE'S SAYING!
YU...LAN... IT HURTS...

YULAN?

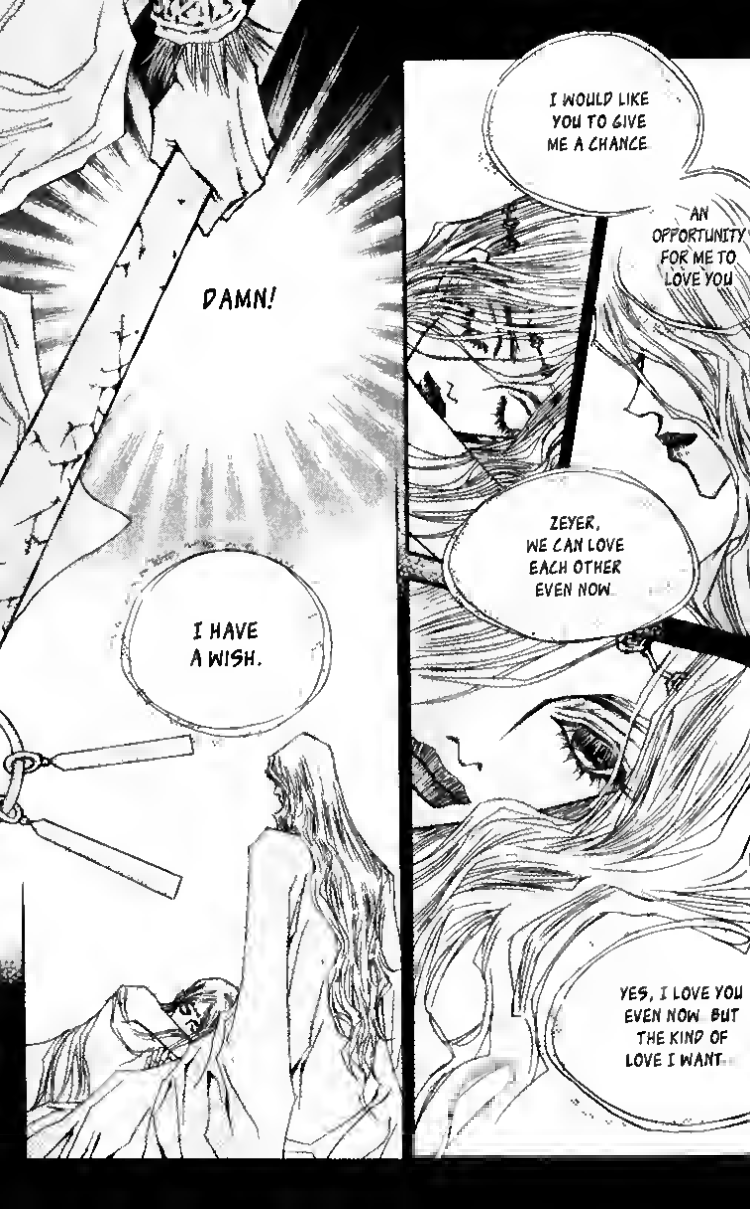


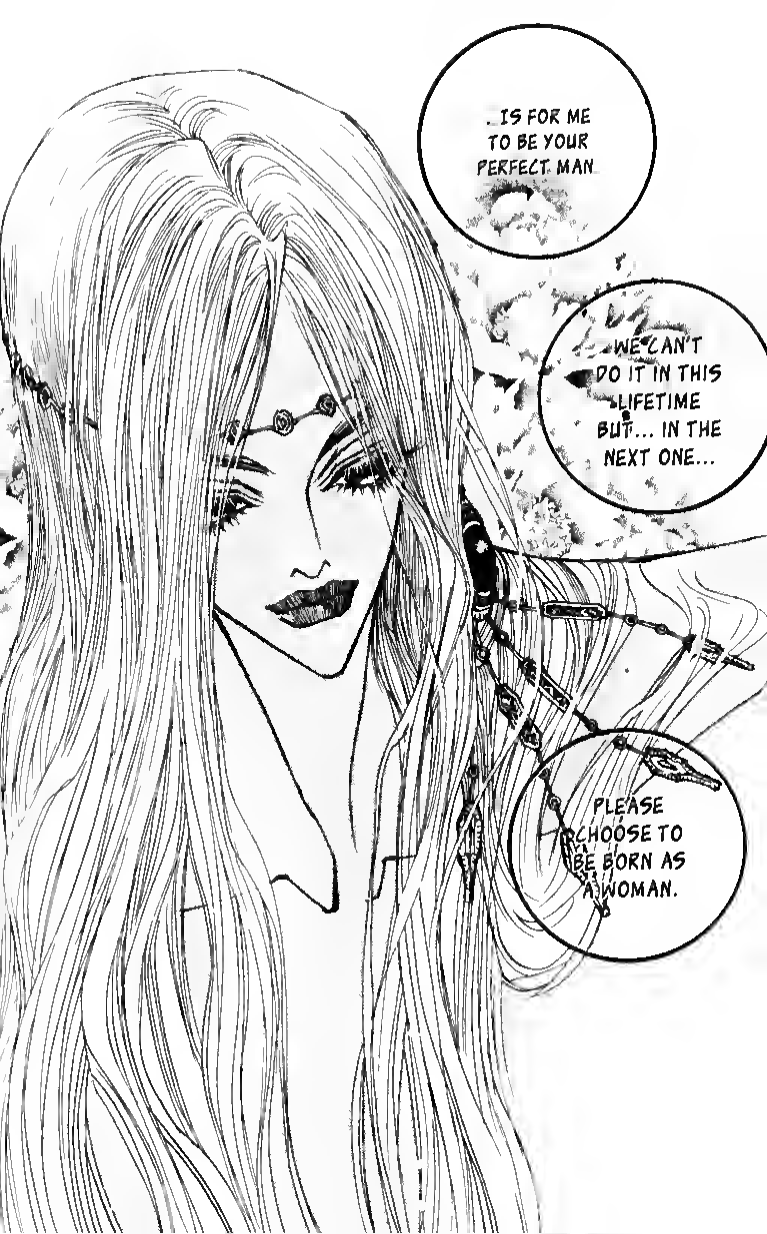
WAS IT BECAUSE OF HIM?
WAS IT... BECAUSE OF ZEYER?
IS HE THE REASON YOU CHOSE THIS FORM?
NO...

DID YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE THE FORM OF A WOMAN BECAUSE HE WANTED IT?
OH, I CAN'T TAKE HIS STARE
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE YULAN'S!
YULAN, PLEASE STOP TALKING IN RIDDLES!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO STRANGE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
DO YOU REALIZE YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY, REALLY WEIRD EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE?
YU-

YULAN!!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHAT'S MAKING YOU SO ANGRY?
WHAT IS IT-

광
콰광
GASP
GASP
GASP
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME? WHAT IS THIS PATHETIC EMOTION THAT I'M FEELING!?


I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE ME A CHANCE
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO LOVE YOU
ZEYER, WE CAN LOVE EACH OTHER EVEN NOW
YES, I LOVE YOU EVEN NOW BUT THE KIND OF LOVE I WANT
DAMN!
I HAVE A WISH.


..IS FOR ME TO BE YOUR PERFECT MAN
WE CAN'T DO IT IN THIS LIFETIME BUT... IN THE NEXT ONE...
PLEASE CHOOSE TO BE BORN AS A WOMAN.

WHEN THAT DAY COMES... I WISH TO BE YOUR ONLY MAN...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WOULD GRANT HIS WISH.

drip

WITH THE CHILD...
SOON HE WILL COME.

7000 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT DAY
HAS ENOUGH TIME PASSED TO MAKE THOSE PROMISES FADE?
BUT THERE WAS NO TIME LIMIT ESTABLISHED EVRYTHING IS UP TO HIM
THE ONE AND ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CHOOSE HE IS COMING HERE
IGNORING THE PROMISE THAT HAS BEEN KEPT FOR 7000 YEARS
IS THIS THE BREAKING OF THAT VOW?

IS IT SO? HAS THAT TIME COME?
WAR OF THE BLACK BLOOD...
THE TRUE FINAL END OF IT ALL...

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Episode 8
Hidden Hearts...

끼익
OH...

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
ELOAM IS CONSIDERED THE HOLIEST OF HOLIES. AND IS COMPLETELY PROTECTED
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO CROSS THE VALLEY OF DAGDA SURROUNDING THE LAND OF THE ELVES

YOU MUST HAVE THE PHOENIX FLY YOU ACROSS.
IN ORDER TO CALL THE PHOENIX, YOU MUST USE THE ELF-HORN.

BUT ONLY HIGH OFFICIAL ELVES POSSESS THE HORN, MEANING...
...EVEN AN AVERAGE ELF FINDS IT HARD TO GET INTO ELOAM...
THEN HOW WILL OUR FRIENDS GET THERE? IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE HORN...
THE CARRIAGE WORRIES ME. IF ITS OWNER HAS THE HORN..
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO QUIT NOW SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A HORN?
WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO GIVE UP BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE AN ELF-HORN?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ELOAM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET INTO ELOAM, WHICH MEANS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF ELOAM AS WELL
THE ONLY WAY TO LEAVE THE LAND OF ELVES IS BY THE SAME ROUTE THEY USED TO GET IN.
IT MEANS THAT EVEN IF THEY REACH ELOAM, THEY MUST COME BACK THROUGH THE CITY OF ECSTASY

OH...
퍽
I FEEL LIKE THROWING UP!
I'M SO DIZZY AND SICK.

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT I DIDN'T BRING MONG WITH ME. BUT TO THINK THAT WE HAVE TO DO THIS AGAIN TO GET BACK...
AT FIRST, I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT FLYING...
ENOUGH THAT I EVEN FORGOT ABOUT YULAN'S STRANGE ATTITUDE FOR A MINUTE.
BUT...
YOU WISH TO CONTINUE ON TO ELOAM. SO THAT WAS THE REASON WHY YOU LET US BRING YOU TO THIS CASTLE WITHOUT MUCH RESISTANCE
TO CROSS THE VALLEY OF DAGDA, YOU WILL NEED THE HORN ONLY WE HIGH-LEVEL ELVES POSSESS
WELL, I WILL LEND YOU THE HORN, BUT ELOAM IS A HOLY LAND, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THIS PLACE

EVEN IF YOU SAFELY CROSS THE VALLEY, ELOAM IS COMPLETELY HIDDEN
BUT YOU ARE FREE TO TEST YOUR LUCK
I WILL NOT ASK WHY YOU ARE TRYING TO GET THERE
I WILL APOLOGIZE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MASTER OF THE CASTLE
YOU WILL REVERT TO YOUR ORIGINAL STATE AS TIME PASSES, SO DO NOT WORRY
EVEN IF YOU DO FIND ELOAM, YOU WILL HAVE TO RETURN HERE ON YOUR WAY BACK, SO I WILL FORMALLY INTRODUCE MYSELF WHEN I SEE YOU AGAIN

A MERE HUMAN AND A HALF-ELF TRYING TO GET TO ELOAM?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, EZEKIEL, GIVING THE HORN TO THOSE TWO
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE THEY ARE YOUR GUESTS, BUT I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT.
HOWEVER, I WILL TURN A BLIND EYE TO THIS.

NOW DO YOU SEE HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, EZEKIEL...?
"WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY TOMORROW, AND YOU WILL GREET ME JUST LIKE BEFORE WHEN YOU SEE ME AGAIN."
"CALLING ME YOUR BEAUTIFUL EZEKIEL..."

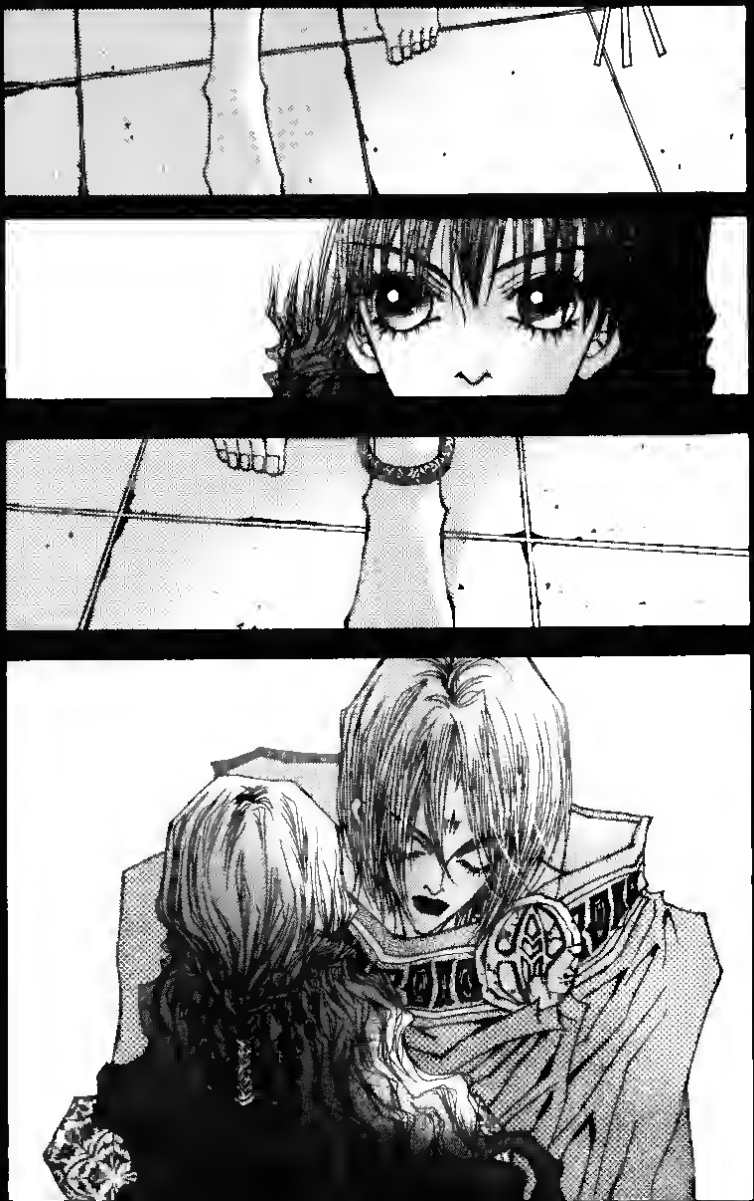
OH!
SHE'S FLYING SO LOW! HER WINGS ARE ALMOST TOUCHING THE WATER'S SURFACE. WHY?
COULD IT BE...

...FOR ME?
WHATEVER IT IS, I FEEL MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU.

YULAN..

YULAN! I STILL NEED TO TALK TO YOU! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER ME! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY AWAKENING? WHAT IS THAT?
YOU ARE BEING REALLY WEIRD, YULAN!
DIDN'T YOU TAKE ON THIS JOURNEY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOURSELF?
THAT IS WHAT I MEAN.

WHO YOU TRULY ARE, AND WHY YOU REFUSE TO REMEMBER YOUR PAST



PLEASE BE AWAKENED.
Grip
PLEASE CHOOSE TO BE BORN AS A WOMAN.
REMEMBER THE MEMORIES SHARED BETWEEN YOU AND ME... BEFORE HIM
I WISH TO BE YOUR ONLY MAN.

IF YOU TRULY WISH TO HAVE MY HEART...

MONG!

OH! M-MONG!
YOU'RE GETTING SMOTHERED? SORRY!
charging
OH!
YULAN...

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? WHEN I FEEL HIS HANDS.
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE!

BE GONE.
I DO NOT WISH TO HURT YOU.
YOU WHO HAVE ALIGNED WITH THE HUMANS.

PLEASE STOP. I DON'T WISH TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD ON MY TALONS
SO, YOU CHOOSE TO SIDE WITH HER, YULAN..

!
OH! YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE AGAIN, YULAN!
AS SOON AS WE REACHED THE VALLEY, YOU PASSED OUT, DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
I WAS SO SHOCKED AND YOU WERE RUNNING A HIGH FEVER TOO
I'M SO GLAD YOU WOKE UP, YULAN

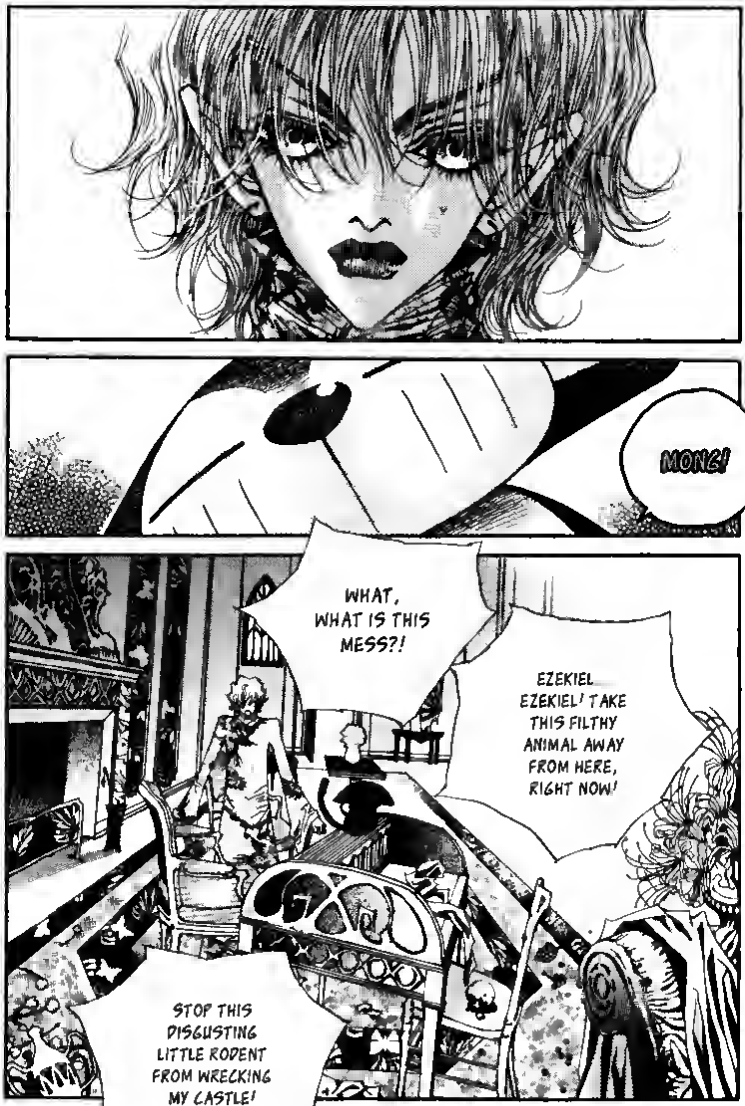
WERE YOU TRYING TO USE THAT?
OH!
OH, YES SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING CLEAN, SO I JUST TORE MY CAPE
THEN USE IT.

I GUESS I CAN TAKE
AT LEAST THIS MUCH
FROM YOU FOR BEING
ON YOUR SIDE

EVEN IF IT WAS
A CHOICE THAT I
COULDN'T AVOID...

IS THIS THE GRIFFIN?
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE I COULD SUMMON WITH CALLING MAGIC. SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CROSS THE VALLEY AS EASILY AS THE PHOENIX...
...BUT SHE DOES HAVE THE ABILITY TO FLY OVER HIGH MOUNTAINS. AS I HAVE SAID, I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY

AS LONG AS I CAN GET TO ELOAM, IT DOESN'T MATTER
IT'S CERTAINLY BETTER THAN JUST WAITING AROUND FOR THEM TO COME BACK
I'M GETTING CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THEIR REAL REASON FOR GOING TO ELOAM IS
I MUST ADMIT, THE JOURNEY THAT BEGAN AS A QUEST FOR THE HEART'S BLOOD HAS ACTUALLY MADE ME MORE CURIOUS ABOUT THE SECRET BEHIND IT
WHAT MADE THE EMPEROR OF THE GREAT KINGDOM OF SUARE HAND OVER THE HEART'S BLOOD TO A LITTLE GIRL?


MONG!
WHAT, WHAT IS THIS MESS?!
EZEKIEL... EZEKIEL! TAKE THIS FILTHY ANIMAL AWAY FROM HERE, RIGHT NOW!
STOP THIS DISGUSTING LITTLE RODENT FROM WRECKING MY CASTLE!

HOWL
HOWL!
HOWL
SURE, I'LL PLAY YOUR GAME!
THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT A COMMON CREATURE LIKE YOU!
HA, PATHETIC LITTLE THING, ALL IT CAN DO IS BARK
ARE YOU TRYING TO REBEL AGAINST ME?
HOWL!

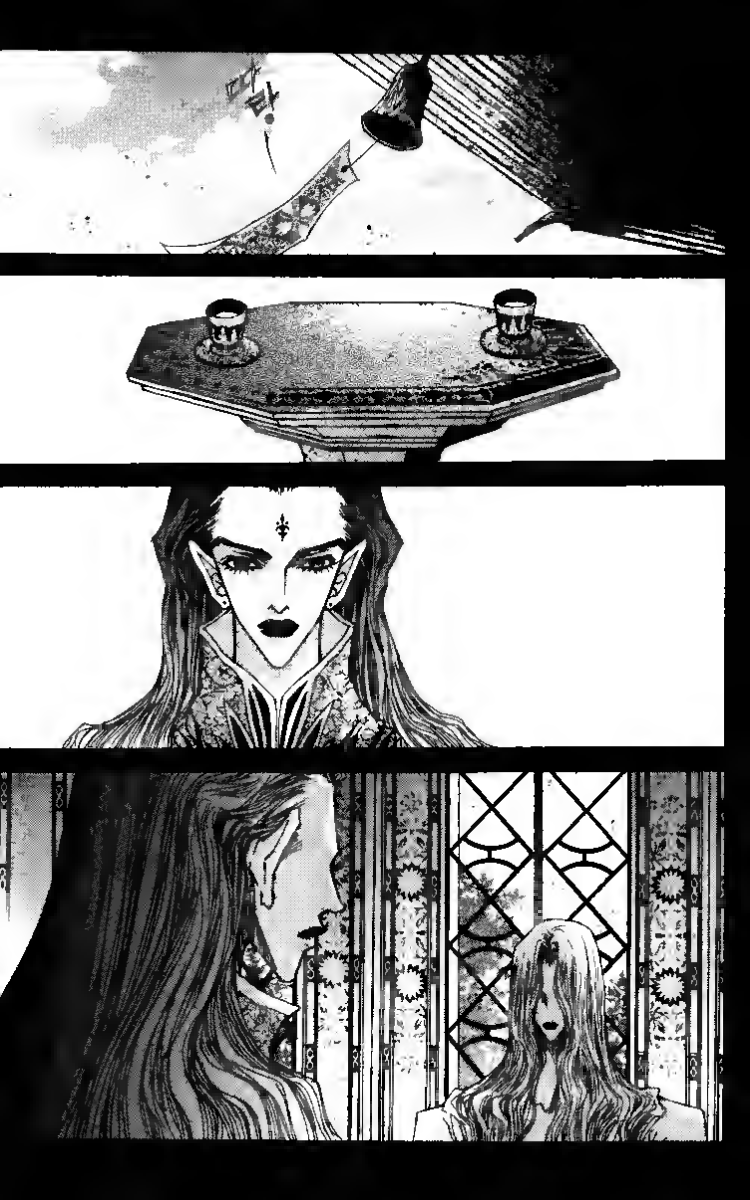
WHO... ARE YOU?
MONG!

WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING... HAS ENTERED THE CASTLE.
SOMEONE WITH AN UNFAMILIAR AURA...
MONG!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU TILL SHE RETURNS
SHE IS ALSO MY MISTRESS

I TOO HAVE TO STAY HERE, WAITING FOR HER TO COME BACK...
MY LORD MINOS, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, I'VE ALREADY ASKED YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HERE
MUST I REMIND YOU AGAIN?

LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR! THERE ARE NO PLACES OFF-LIMITS TO ME. I'M THE MASTER OF THIS CASTLE
THIS MEANS YOU MUST ALSO GET MY PERMISSION TO HIDE WHATEVER YOU HAVE TUCKED AWAY IN THERE

WHAT.. DID YOU SAY JUST NOW? DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT, YULAN?
YOU MUST BE AWAKENED NOW. THE ONE WHO CAN ENTER ELOAM IS NOT THE INEZ OF NOW, BUT...
..THE FULLY-AWAKENED INEZ.
ELOAM IS A WELL-HIDDEN PLACE. THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE WAY THERE IS NOT ME BUT THE AWAKENED YOU



SOON, THIS LAND WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ENGULFED IN CHAOS.
I WILL NO LONGER LET HUMANS SUFFER THEIR ANGER.
SO... IT HAS COME TO THIS.
I TOO AM HUMAN, LORD SEIDE.
I DON'T THINK I CAN IGNORE IT ANYMORE.

LORD SEIDE! YOU'RE HERE
HAVE YOU SEEN LADY FREIA? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS
SHE HAD ASKED ME TO PICK TEA LEAVES WITH HER

LADY FREIA USUALLY KEEPS HER WORD WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE?
I GUESS I COULD GO BY MYSELF... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
YOU'LL ASK ME THAT ALL DAY LONG IF I DON'T GIVE YOU AN ANSWER GO AHEAD
.....
NO, I'LL WAIT. I'LL ACTUALLY ASK HER DIRECTLY

MEANING YOU WEREN'T GOING TO ASK SOMETHING ABOUT ME
I'M SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED
HA HA. I KNOW YOU'RE RELIEVED
HE WILL COME...
...WITH THE CHILD.

LA LA LA
OH...
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
LA-
LA-
THANK YOU...

ИШН?

YULAN!
YULAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
YULAN!
WHERE HAVE YOU DISAPPEARED TO, YULAN?! YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER
AND YOU LOOKED SO PALE, AS IF YOU WOULD FAINT.
"PLEASE BE AWAKENED. I WILL NOT ACCOMPANY YOU UNTIL YOU ARE AWAKENED."
IT... CAN'T BE...

NO, IT CAN'T BE. HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME BY MYSELF BECAUSE OF THAT
AWAKENING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS!
YULAN!!
YULAN, YOU IDIOT! COME HERE RIGHT NOW!

...WATER...

TO BE CONTINUED IN ARCANA VOLUME 6!

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